

Message Text

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OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, LONDON BRANCH OFFICE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4342

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS: 12-31-79

TAGS: MASS, ESTC, NATO

SUBJECT: REPORT OF SEPT 1973 MEETING OF NATO MARITIME PATROL

AIRCRAFT STEERING COMMITTEE (NMPASC)

SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM; SECDEF FOR OASD (I&L); CNO FOR OP-098, OP-05,
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REF: A. USNATO 2366 (141750Z MAY 73) (NOTAL

B. USNATO 2792 (051845Z JUN 73) (NOTAL)

C. STATE 100408 (242154Z MAY 73) (NOTAL)

D. USNATO 3413 (181430Z JUL 73) (NOTAL

E. STATE 23535 (072246Z FEB 73) (NOTAL

F. STATE 24741 (082316Z FEB 73) (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS OF
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NMPASC MEETING HELD IN PARIS ON SEPT 13, 1973:

(1) DITCHING OF ATLANTIC AIRCRAFT ON AUGUST 15, 1973 BY DUTCH
CREW.

(2) RE-DRAFTING OF LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN, NMPASC (REAR ADMIRAL VAN DUIJNEN) TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE (MOD) CANADA (RICHARDSON) ABOUT NMPASC INTEREST, IN PROPOSING MODIFIED ATLANTIC II AS CANDIDATE TO REPLACE CANADIAN ARGUS MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT (MPA).

(3) FUTURE OF THE ATLANTIC II PROGRAM. END SUMMARY

1. THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NMPASC WAS HELD IN PARIS ON SEPT 13. THERE WAS NO AUGUST MEETING SCHEDULED. ALL MEMBER NATIONS (BELGIUM, FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (FRG), ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS AND US) WERE REPRESENTED. THE US WAS REPRESENTED BY CAPTAIN CHISUM, USN (USNATO) AND COMMANDER DOWE, USN (OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, LONDON). ITEMS OF INTEREST ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.

2.

2. A DUTCH ATLANTIC WAS DITCHED IN THE NORTH SEA ON AUGUST 15, 1973. THE AIRCRAFT WAS ON A TEST FLIGHT FOLLOWING ROUTINE ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE. LOSS OF FLIGHT CONTROL AND SUBSEQUENT DITCHING OF THE AIRCRAFT BY THE PILOT IS SURMISED TO HAVE RESULTED FROM FAILURE, FOLLOWING MAINTENANCE, TO REINSTALL A PIN IN THE CLEVIS JOINING TWO SECTIONS OF THE RIGHT HAND ELEVATOR SERVO CONTROL LINKAGE. APPARENTLY THIS CONDITION WAS NOT DISCOVERED DURING POST-MAINTENANCE OR PRE-FLIGHT CHECKS NOR WAS IT APPARENT DURING TAKE OFF AND INITIAL FLIGHT PHASE BECAUSE OF PARTIAL ENGAGEMENT OF THE CLEVIS. POSSIBILITY OF THIS CONDITION EXISTING WAS LATER DEMONSTRATED ON THE GROUND. THERE WERE NO CREW INJURIES. THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH FLOATED FOR SOME 48 HOURS, WAS TOWED ABOUT NINETY MILES TO DEN HELDER WHERE LIFTING FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE. THE AIRCRAFT IS NOT REPAIRABLE AND WILL NOT BE REPLACED. MOST OF THE ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT WAS SALVAGED.

3. THE PROPOSED LETTER RESPONSE TO MOD CANADA WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH.

A. BACKGROUND: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE NMPASC DESIRED, CONFIDENTIAL

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VIA THE PROPOSED LETTER, TO TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE FACT THAT MOD CANADA HAD DECLINED TO SUBMIT SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ARGUS MPA REPLACEMENT TO THE NMPASC. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE NMPASC (SPEAR-HEADED BY THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE (VELON)) THAT THE DESIGN OF THE ATLANTIC II MIGHT BE MODIFIED TO MEET THE CANADIAN REQUIREMENTS. THE PROPOSED LETTER, DRAFTED IN MAY 1973 IN RESPONSE TO THE MOD CANADA LETTER OF MARCH 1973, HAS STILL NOT BEEN SENT. REFERENCE A. PARAGRAPH 2.; REF B. PARAGRAPH 2.A.; REF C. PARAGRAPH 2.; AND REFERENCE D. PARAGRAPH 2.B. ARE GERMANE.

B. CURRENT STATUS: IT IS THE CURRENT CONSENSUS OF THE NMPASC THAT THE LETTER SHOULD BE UP-DATED AND TABLED DURING THE OCTOBER 11, 1973 MEETING OF THE NMPASC IN BRUSSELS. IF FOUND TO BE

ACCEPTABLE TO THE MEMBERS F THE NMPASC AT THIS MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN NMPASC WILL REQUEST THE NETHERLANDS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (SPIERENBURG) TO DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF THE LETTER AND THE PROPRIETY OF SENDING IT TO MOD CANADA WITH PERMREPS OF MEMBER NATIONS OF THE NMPASC (BELGIUM, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS AND US). DRAWING ON GUIDANCE OF REFERENCE C PARAGRAPH 2; AND REFERENCES E AND F THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NMPASC NOTED THE PROPOSED ACTION.

C. USNATO COMMENT:

THE BELGIAN (AVAERT) AND FRENCH (VELON) REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NMPASC APPEAR TO BE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED ACTION; I.E. OBTAIN CONCURRENCE OF PERMREPS PRIOR TO SENDING THE LETTER.

THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE (REAR ADMIRAL BITONTI) STATED THAT QUOTE HIGH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE LABELED THE PROPOSED ACTION AS USELESS UNQUOTE AND THAT HE, ACCORDINGLY, WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE STRONG SUPPORT.

THE GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE (BEK) WHO IS RELATIVELY NEW TO THE NMPASC, AGREED THAT SOME ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN. HOWEVER, HE REQUESTED TIME TO REVIEW THE SITUATION BEFORE COMMENTING AT THE NEXT MEETING.

THE CHAIRMAN NMPASC (VAN DUIJNAN) SPEAKING NATIONALLY, AND IN CONFIDENCE, TO THE US REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT HE WOULD ACQUIESCE TO THE DESIRES OF THE NMPASC AND WOULD SUBMIT THE PROPOSED LETTER
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TO PERMREP SPIERENBURG IF REQUESTED.

UPON RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT, MISSION WILL EVALUATE AND SUBMIT COMMENTS WITH REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

4. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BY US REPRESENTATIVE TO NMPASC WITH OTHER REPRESENTATIVES CONFIRM THE TENOR OF REF D. PARAGRAPH 3 EXCEPT THAT GERMAN DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ATLANTIC II PROGRAM HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR PERHAPS ANOTHER MONTH.
MCAULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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